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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,288	12/04/2003	Brian J. Cragun	ROC920030192US1	7906
46797 7590 07/24/2007 IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT 917, BLDG. 006-1 3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829			EXAMINER LEE, WILSON	
			ART UNIT 2163	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/728,288	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CRAGUN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Wilson Lee	<b>Art Unit</b> 2163	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 101**

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 10, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims recite a method has an open-ended result. It produces a result only open satisfying a condition. It does not mention other condition. It means it does not produce anything when the condition is not satisfied. Thus, the claimed method does not pass muster and is nonstatutory. For instances, “displaying an annotation icon proximate a row **if** the bit corresponding to the row is set” in claim 10 and “generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, **if** any, objects in the view have the identified corresponding annotations” in claim 14 both recite an open result.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112**

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claim 2, “a specified group” is vague because it is not defined.

Regarding Claim 4, “first bit” and “second bit” are vague because they are not defined.

Regarding Claim 14, “in a common row” is not taught in specification.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1-3, 5-9, 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matter (US 2004/0163050).

Regarding Claim 1, Matter discloses a method for indicating objects in a view of data having corresponding annotations, comprising:

- querying (a search query) (paragraphs 0104, 0105) an annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064);
- generating one or more indicia maps (tables) indicating objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations (fig. 3B, paragraph 0064); and
- providing an indication of those objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations (cell linked to and displayed annotations) (paragraphs 0060-0064, 0165, 0166, 0171, 0172, fig. 3b), based on the one or more indicia maps (tables).

Regarding Claim 2, Matter discloses that generating one or more indicia maps indicating objects in the view having corresponding annotations comprises generating at least one indicia map indicating the existence of annotations for a specified group of data objects (columns) (fig. 1D).

Regarding Claim 3, Matter discloses that the view of data comprises a portion of a text document (paragraphs 0042, 0057, 0172 for text documents and 0043, 0063, 064, 0087, 0089, 0092, 0095, 0096, 0099, 0101-0105 for text field).

Regarding Claim 5, Matter discloses that generating one or more indicia maps indicating objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations comprises:

- setting a first bit (interpreted as the data in cell A1) in an indicia map (table) to indicate a first data object has a corresponding annotation (figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B); and
- setting a second one or more bits (interpreted as the data in cells B1, C1, etc) in the indicia map (table) to indicate one or more sub-objects related to the first data object each having corresponding annotations (figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B).

Regarding Claim 6, Matter discloses a method for indicating annotated objects in a relational view of data having rows of individual cells, comprising:

- querying (a search query) (paragraphs 0104, 0105) an annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064);

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- generating one or more indicia maps (tables) indicating objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations wherein the one or more indicia maps each comprise a single bit (interpreted as the data in cell A1) corresponding to a row and one or more bits (interpreted as the data in cells B1, C1, etc) corresponding to individual cells in the row (figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B, paragraph 0060-0065) and
- providing an indication of those objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations (cell linked to and displayed annotations) (paragraphs 0060-0064, 0165, 0166, 0171, 0172, fig. 3b), based on the one or more indicia maps (tables).

Regarding Claim 7, Matter discloses that querying the annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view comprises generating and executing a query specifying a data source and one or more primary keys (row numbers in the tables shown in figs. 1A-1E) identifying objects in the view.

Regarding Claim 8, Matter discloses that retrieving the primary keys comprises:

- receiving a query for generating the view (paragraphs 101, 104, 105, 126, 161), wherein a specified result set of the query does not include primary key data (fig. 1D); and
- modifying the query to include primary key data in the result set (more rows shown in figs. 1A-1E, 5).

Regarding Claim 9, Matter discloses that at least one of the indicia maps (tables) comprises one or more bits indicating the existence of annotations (cell linked to and

displayed annotations) (paragraphs 0060-0064, 0165, 0166, 0171, 0172, fig. 3b), corresponding to a specified group of cells.

Regarding Claim 14, Matter discloses that generating one or more indicia maps indicating which, if any, objects in the view have the identified corresponding annotations comprises: generating a temporary table (provision table) (paragraph 0064) having entries with a single bit set (interpreted as the data in cell A1) to indicate an annotated row or annotated individual cells (figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B, 5); and combining individual entries corresponding to a common row to generate an indicia map for the common row (figs. 1D, 3A, 5).

Regarding Claim 15, Matter discloses a computer-readable medium containing a program for indicating objects in a view of data that have annotations which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

- querying (a search query) (paragraphs 0104, 0105) an annotation store to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064);
- generating one or more indicia maps (tables) indicating objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064, figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B, 5); and
- providing an indication of those objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064, figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B, 5), based on the one or more indicia maps (tables).

Regarding Claim 16, discloses that querying the annotation store (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064) comprises querying (query) (paragraphs 0104, 0105) a data source separate from a data source containing the corresponding objects in the view.

Regarding Claim 17, Matter discloses that the view of data comprises a portion of a text document. (paragraphs 0042, 0057, 0172 for text documents and 0043, 0063, 064, 0087, 0089, 0092, 0095, 0096, 0099, 0101-0105 for text field).

Regarding Claim 18, Matter discloses that the view of data comprises a relational view of data having rows of individual cells (in tables); and each indicia map (table) comprises a single bit (interpreted as the data in cell A1) corresponding to a row and one or more bits (interpreted as the data in cells B1, C1, etc) corresponding to individual cells in the row. (figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B, paragraph 0060-0065).

Regarding Claim 19, Matter discloses that querying the annotation store to identify annotations (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064) corresponding to objects in the view comprises generating and executing a query (a search query) (paragraphs 0104, 0105) specifying a data source and one or more primary keys identifying rows in the view (more rows shown in figs. 1A-1E, 5).

Regarding Claim 20, Matter discloses a system for indicating objects in a view of data having corresponding annotations, comprising:

- an annotation database for storing annotation records containing annotations (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064); and



- an executable component configured to query (a search query) (paragraphs 0104, 0105) the annotation database to identify annotations (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064) corresponding to objects in the view, generate one or more indicia maps (tables) indicating objects in the view having corresponding annotations, and provide an indication of those objects in the view having the identified corresponding annotations (paragraphs 0057, 0060, 0061, 0063, 0064), based on the one or more indicia maps (tables).

Regarding Claim 21, Matter discloses that the view of data comprises a relational view of data having rows of individual cells (in tables); and each indicia map (table) comprises a single bit (interpreted as the data in cell A1) corresponding to a row and one or more bits (interpreted as the data in cells B1, C1, etc) corresponding to individual cells in the row (figs. 1A-1E, 3A, 3B, paragraph 0060-0065).

Regarding Claim 22, Matter discloses the executable component is configured to query the annotation database to identify annotations corresponding to objects in the view by generating and executing a query (paragraphs 101, 104, 105, 126, 161) specifying a data source and one or more primary keys identifying objects in the view (figs. 1A-1E, 5).

Regarding Claim 23, Matter discloses that the executable component is further configured to obtain the one or more primary keys (row numbers) by modifying a query designed to generate the view of data (adding more rows shown in figs. 1A-1E, 5).

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 10, 12, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matter (US 2004/0163050) in view of Wang et al. (7,065,705).

Regarding Claim 4, Matter essentially discloses the claimed invention but does not explicitly disclose displaying one or more annotation icons proximate one or more objects. However, Wang discloses display a number of annotation icons to facilitate determination of label parameters for labels to be associate with the objects (Col. 2, lines 20-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide annotation icons in Matter in order to facilitate the determination and selection as taught by Wang. Further, providing an indicator such as icons, marker, or any pictorial image for indicating an data object has been commonly found in any software product which does not render novelty or unexpected results.

Regarding Claim 10, Matter discloses that displaying the bit corresponding to the row is set (See figs. 1A-1E, 3). Matter essentially discloses the claimed invention but does not explicitly disclose displaying one or more annotation icons proximate one or more objects. However, Wang discloses display a number of annotation icons to facilitate determination of label parameters for labels to be associate with the objects (Col. 2, lines 20-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

provide annotation icons in Matter in order to facilitate the determination and selection as taught by Wang. Further, providing an indicator such as icons, marker, or any pictorial image for indicating an data object is common in any software product which does not render novelty or unexpected results.

Regarding Claim 12, Matter discloses the method further comprising, in response to a user selecting an annotation icon (graphical user interface shown in figs. 3, 3A, 3B, 6A1), displaying a corresponding annotation (paragraphs 0060-0064).

Regarding Claim 13, Matter discloses the method further comprising retrieving the corresponding annotation (paragraphs 0060-0064), in response to the user selecting the annotation icon (graphical user interface shown in figs. 3, 3A, 3B, 6A1).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matter (US 2004/0163050) in view of Hughes (6,275,223).

Regarding Claim 11, Matter discloses the method further comprising: retrieving partial annotation information related to annotated objects (figs. 1A-1E, paragraph 0064).

As discussed above, Matter essentially discloses the claimed invention but does not explicitly disclose displaying partial annotation information in response to a user placing a mouse cursor over an annotation icon. However, Hughes discloses that moving the cursor to an annotation icon and view the annotations (Col. 15, lines 8-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use this technique in Matter to order to facilitate the review on the annotations as taught by Hughes. Further, this technique has been commonly found in any software product (e.g. windows) which

does not render any novelty or unexpected results. Adding this feature in Matter does not change the scope of his invention.

### **Remarks**

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### **Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Merrit et al. (6,041,335) discloses that an annotation type can be associated with a icon to facilitate selection. Pizano et al. (5,991,365) discloses icons indicating the annotation.

### **Correspondence**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Papers related to the application may be submitted by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

Wilson Lee  
Primary Examiner  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

7/23/07